

## **United States Embassy Manila, Philippines**

### **Security Message for U.S. Citizens:**

#### **Embassy Encourages Increased Vigilance At International Schools**

**November 3, 2014**

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.  
THANK YOU.*

A recent anonymous posting on a Jihadist website encouraged attacks against American and other international schools primarily in the Middle East, including Western teachers employed at these schools. That message referenced schools in the localities of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Maadi (Egypt) as examples, and these two cities as locations with high concentrations of potential targets. The U.S. Embassy is unaware of any specific, credible threat against any American school or individual in the Philippines. Nonetheless, the Embassy is working with local schools identified with the United States to review their security posture. U.S. citizens residing in or visiting the Philippines should remain vigilant regarding their personal security and alert to local security developments.

It is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. Please follow these good personal security practices:

Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;

Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;

Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;

Minimize your profile while in public;

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as (02) 301-2000 (the Embassy phone number) and 117 (Police). Emergency numbers for Fire and Rescue vary from province to province;

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;

Report concerns you may have to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

The Embassy would like to remind U.S. citizens residing in, or traveling to, the Philippines of the continuing threat of violence in Mindanao, including the kidnapping of foreigners, bombings, and attacks on Philippine security forces. The Embassy strongly reiterates its recommendation that U.S. citizens exercise extreme caution when travelling to the Zamboanga Peninsula and across Mindanao and to keep personal safety and security in mind during any stay in Mindanao.

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. American citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the Embassy Facebook page. Please visit our website for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#)), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to the ["Traveler's Checklist"](#) on the State Department's website.